

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 8, 2019

Providence VA Medical Center
830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III
401-457-3369
winfield.danielsoniii@va.gov

Multidisciplinary Study to Help Identify Veterans At-Risk for Suicide

PROVIDENCE — A research health scientist with the VA Rehabilitation, Research and Development's Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, or CfNN, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, has received a VA Career Development Award Jan. 1 for a project titled "Identification of Veterans At-Risk for Suicide: A Multidisciplinary Approach."

The \$1 million award will fund a five-year project. Dr. Jennifer Barredo, who is also an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School, will use magnetic resonance imaging to study patterns of brain activity in Veterans who may be at risk for suicide. Using an advanced machine learning approach, the project aims to develop new ways to identify suicide risk, and develop this into a clinical tool for early detection. New insights into the neurobiology of suicide may also guide the development and optimization of emerging treatments for suicidality in Veterans.

"Research that could help better identify Veterans at risk for suicide is critically important," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "Preventing the tragic loss of Veterans to suicide – people who have served and sacrificed so much for our country – continues to be top priority for VA."

The VA Career Development Program was established to attract, develop, and retain talented scientists working to improve Veteran health, care and quality of life.

- more -

Study to Help Identify Veterans At-Risk for Suicide, 2 of 2



Dr. Jennifer Barredo, research health scientist with VA Rehabilitation, Research and Development's Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, or CfNN, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, and assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School, received a \$1 million VA Career Development Award Jan. 1 for a project titled "Identification of Veterans At-Risk for Suicide: A Multidisciplinary Approach." (Photo courtesy of Advance Clinical and Translational Research at Brown University)

###